



Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.  
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

ENVIRONMENT

# PROTECT ILLINOIS' ENVIRONMENT



TAKE A STAND AGAINST  
LANDBANKING, EMINENT  
DOMAIN & "QUICK TAKE"  
IN PEOTONE!

## Protecting Peotone is a Everyone's Responsibility!

The years' long menacing of the citizens of Eastern Will County doesn't just affect 4,400 or 24,000 acres of farmland. It involves the largest assault on the environment, resources and people of *all* of Illinois! For, with the forced acquisition of homes, land and farms, the juggernaut of taxpayer paid for ecocide will ensue. It is the granddaddy of all corporate, anti-citizen, unnecessary insider political swindles. For, the money poured down this economic black hole (\$100,000,000.00 already wasted) will *not* be used for needful communities or to improve our environment, but rather, to degrade it!

The push on Peotone embodies all that is wrong with government. It's an unnecessary project that the airline industry does not want. It would destroy annually productive family farming communities. It would ruin the feeder creeks that flow into the Kankakee river. It is an insider/political offensive by outsiders, with no input from local citizens.

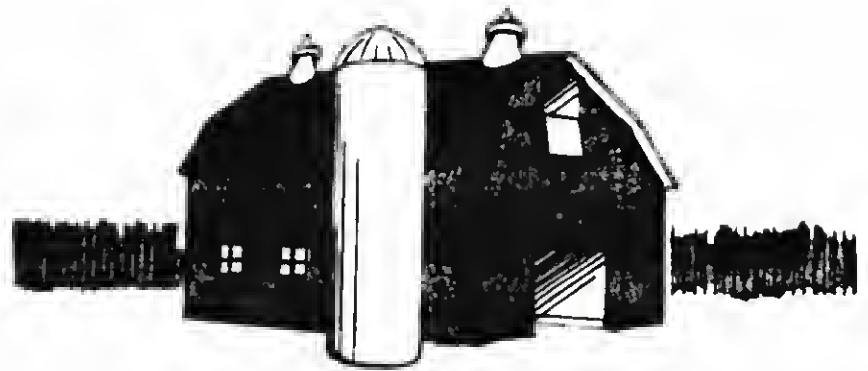
Speculators and land developers hide behind "blind land trusts." The campaign funders (road builders, trucking outfits, etc.) wait to be awarded huge state contracts. If they have their way, asphalt, concrete, trucks, noise, pollution and non-livability will replace this serene and still pristine land. It's a devolution!

Obviously, the politicians at every level have failed the citizens miserably on this one. All they see are dollar signs and believe the incessant lies and wild projections they are constantly spoon fed. It is up to the citizens with an environmental conscious and a moral commitment to do what is right, to stand up to this disgusting assault.

Environmentalists must show what they are made of and get vocal over this. Eminent domain &/or "quicktake" are on the horizon. Many have been harassed and have sold out already. Many others are under seige, economically and psychologically over this, as well. NOW is the time to pressure the unknowing politicians about the reality of this situation and *force* them to do the right thing! When a family is forcibly thrown from their home, we must be there with them to stop this from happening. For, if they can destroy Peotone, they can do it to anybody in Illinois! Come to the aid of Earth and her people! Fight!

Anthony Rayson - South Chicago ABC Zine Distro  
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# YES FARMLAND



# NO AIRPORT

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### Not in Chicago

Mr. Jackson writes as if "Peotone" were on the South Side of Chicago, which is his district. It's "south" all right — way south! The land out here being bullseyed for his airport is farmland — productive, useful long-standing farmland.

The people screaming for the airport don't live anywhere near Peotone. (U.S. Rep.) Gerald Weller is also shamelessly pushing for this airport, even though he fancies himself as an "environmentalist." But, where does he live? In Morris, which is even further away from Peotone than where Jackson lives.

Those folks living around O'Hare clamoring for Peotone do so because life near a major airport is so totally miserable. When are the people who actually live in the Peotone area going to be included in this debate? Why are the opinions of certain outside politicians and pro-airport wonks treated as the voice of the "southland"? Where are the tens of millions of Illinois taxpayer dollars for a "No Airport" campaign?

Many, many people do not want this massive sprawl agenda foisted on us by the Jacksons of this state. Let's "study" why the Chicagoland satellite airports of Gary, Rockford, Milwaukee — even Kankakee — are so underutilized. Why isn't Jackson trying to tell Ford or Sears where to put their plants and headquarters?

The mantra from Mascoutah was also "jobs, jobs, jobs." Supposedly 20,000 would be created. They have 24. "236,000 jobs" is irresponsible fantasy.

Jackson should be working on citizen-useful projects in and for the South Side of Chicagoland, not menacing farmers and homeowners who live outside his district, tens of miles south of him.

Neither the airlines nor the citizens of Peotone are hardly responsible for the dire conditions of suffering humanity. It is the racist, incarceration-mad, greed-based system itself that must be fought. Destroying Peotone is not the solution.

**Anthony Rayson**  
*Monroe*

**As the vultures acrimoniously circle over Peotone, the citizens of Illinois deserve some answers!**

**Governor Blagoyevich came out against eminent domain and “quick take” during the campaign. What is his position now and when will he personally visit with the people of Peotone, demonstrate some ethics and stop treating us like lepers?**

**How is it "legal" to hold whole communities economically and psychologically hostage for these many years, making it impossible to buy or sell our homes and land for a fair price? What about our children, who have lived with this menace their whole lives??? Who in hell gave our neighboring communities the morality to decide our futures out here?**

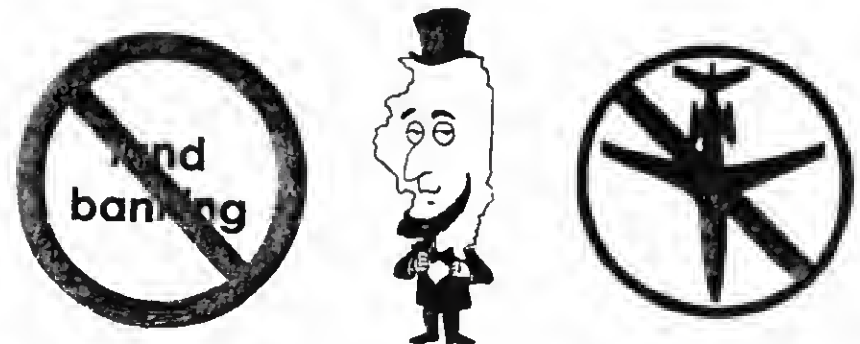
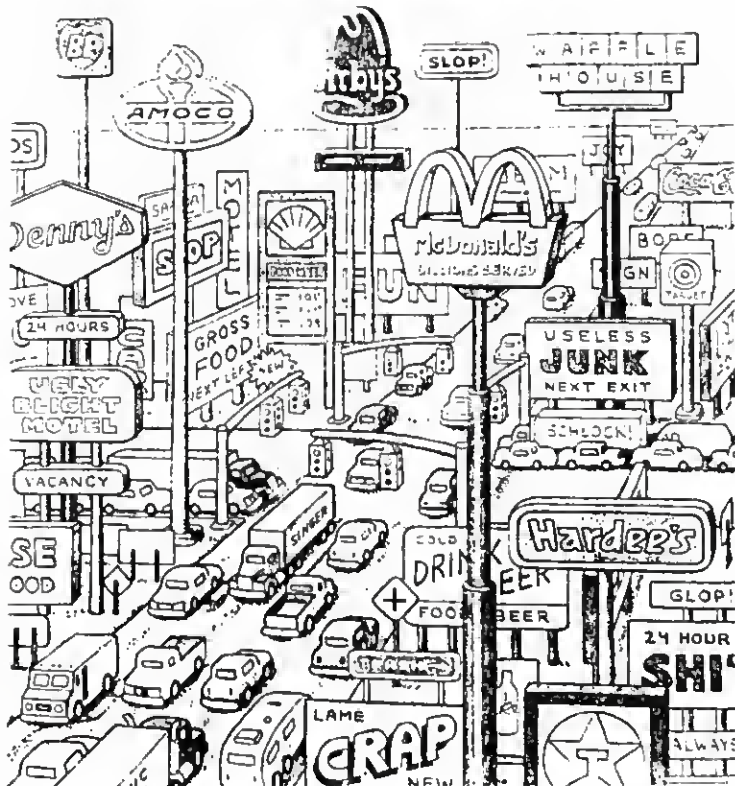
**What is LCOR's track record as far as privately funding the Kennedy terminal is concerned? Was tax money heavily used? Did they go over budget and inflate enplanement projections?**

**What are the economic interests in the farmland surrounding Peotone of the Jacksons, Rainbow-PUSH, Tony Perry, Aldo DeAngelis and the Southland crowd? What is the position of the airline industry regarding an airport in Peotone?**

**How are the “economic engines” in Mascoutah and Gary doing and since when does a farmland destroying hoondoggle become “progressive?” Why is Eastern Will County under seige from the O’Hare obstructionist agenda of Henry Hyde and Co.? Who has pocketed the \$100,000,000.00 already spend and why?**

**Will government *ever* use taxpayer money for projects that benefit needful communities genuinely and directly, which have real input from citizens, rather than at the behest of politically connected business interests in cahoots with their bought and sold politicians? Isn't extortion a "crime?"**

**It's getting close to "tea party" time, folks! For, we will not put up with this insipid, hostile takeover! Remember Narita!**



### Peotone Still Being Held Hostage

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Governor Blagojevich has felt compelled to redo state spending, eliminating many programs, which we're all painfully familiar with. On the sore subject of Peotone, he has been very quiet. He also has laid off the huge piles of cash certain legislators control, yet he's very vocal on "ethics reform."

He and Daley solidified the O'Hare expansion deal, which Jackson and Fitzgerald had admitted would render Peotone unnecessary. Yet, landbanking continues and the crowing for this boondoggle airport has shifted a little to the head of the Will County Board and a few mayors around O'Hare. They just so happened to have \$3 million to menace Southeastern Will county farmers and residents with. A German consortium was briefly hired, took a look and said, "No, thanks!" But recently, their Canadian one and another out East said, "Sure! We can do this! Keep sending us your money." How dare these O'Hare towns menace us in this fashion!

Blago gave IDOT \$5 million to "landbank," instead of fifteen, like Ryan had been doing. These Peotone pushers think they can build a privatized airport and lease the appropriated land (our homes and farms) from the state! So the landgrab agents, speculators, road construction companies and the propaganda machine churn on.

The \$100 million spent already has reached the black community in dry gulch trickle-down fashion. Hopkins Park, in need of genuine, community-based development, was relieved that the Women's Prison would not be erected on their town, although they had begun the foundation for it. Peotone also deserves a decision.

The residents in this area (and all Illinois citizens) are still being menaced by this unnecessary, money-pit pet project. Like everybody else, we want our tax money spent for the good of our children and the good of our community - not to ruin it, for the dreams and profit of those pushing for this, who will never be held accountable anyway, if the project proves useless, - except by us!

So, we call upon Blagojevich to make a historic, bold decision to stop beating the dead horse known as "Peotone" and free the citizens in a wide area, for we have been your "low intensity" conflict hostages, for these many years. Make a decision, one way or the other. If you decide against us, we need to know that, too.

~ Anthony Rayson ~ Monee, IL (708) - 534 - 1334

*Anthony Rayson 9-15-03*

Shut This Airport Nightmare Down

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## Pull the Plug on Peotone

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We've come here today to stand up for citizens, not just in Eastern Will County, or even all of Illinois. The whole world is under the pressure of corporate-political hullyng. The Peotone Airport saga is hut a sad, local example of it. So, we also come as American citizens, who are speaking for all of the people of the world.

This latest assault on our communities, engineered by the hack-stabbing mayors from the towns of Elk Grove Village and Bensenville and Jesse Jackson, Jr. has also lured mayor John Ostenhurg of Park Forest into their dubious plot! University Park officials are also claiming to speak for their citizens on this issue. Park Forest has attained a deserved reputation as an environmentally conscious and responsible town. Notice it is only the mayors who are involved in this knife sharpening of their neighbor communities! It's time for a serious reality check!

Officials are treating citizens like cattle or disposable commodities. Our families and farms have been productively existing for several generations. The people and land are not "open space" hut rather highly fertile farmland. We earn our keep and provide food for the world. Many of us are townspeople like you and work hard for our families at some job. To have our tax money used against us just outrageous!

Peotone has already been a \$100 million swindle, left over from the corrupt George Ryan regims. Our communities have been pressured by many Illinois taxpayer funded sources, looking to exploit our land, most painfully from IDOT who has managed to frighten, bully or lawyer talk several of our neighbors from their homes and lives out here. We've been hurt but we can recover.

Everyone should realize that we are going to stay! Only about 1/3 of the "inaugural footprint" land has been usurped from us. If eminent domain &/or quick taks are forcibly implemented, look for a Cancun type situation to unravel. For we are United States citizens, who raise our families and pay our taxes and won't be pushed out of our homes, nor stand by whils our friends are thrown into the street!

We call upon Governor Blagojevich to demonstrate his newfound governmental "ethics" and pull the plug on Peotone, once and for all! End the tragedy of landhanking, release the hostages and let us get on with our lives! Like Hopkin's Park, we deserve a decision. You stopped the unwanted women's prison down there. Now, how about real development that their community truly needs, like a community center, nice playground, laudromat, gas station and grocery store? The people of Peotone, Monee, University Park, Goodenow, Beecher and Crete deserve a final decision, like O'Hare, like Hopkin's Park. We don't want anything but to be left alone. Deal with this hostage situation! Nobody should have to live under thia never-ending, menacing cloud for so long! Liberate Peotone!

Two weeks from today, on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 11 am, many more of us will be at the State of Illinois Building in Chicago. We'll present hundreds of petitions for the government, again ask that the governor step forward and end landhanking and begin the process of healing and actually including citizens in useful projects. If, however, it's war you want, we'll defend our families and our communities, as best we can.

Peotone Airport "Footprint" Resident, Anthony Rayson



(Shut This Airport Nightmare Down)



Star photo by Matt Marlon

The Rev. Anthony Williams (right) leads a rally against the proposed third airport in Dolton on Wednesday. Williams criticized U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. for promoting the airport project, which is outside Jackson's district. "Every time it is time for him to run, he brings up the same issue," Williams said.



# SOUTHSIDE CATS

## (Citizens And Taxpayers)

Folks on the Southside (and the rest of the state) have recently been hit with the latest push on Peotone by Jesse Jackson, Jr. and his latest pro-Peotone Airport group. Although he, like Senator Fitzgerald, had said Peotone was superfluous, if O'Hare expansion went through. Lo and behold, the Svengali Attorney, Karagansis, from the Suburban O'Hare Commission (SOC) and the hypocritical mayors from Elk Grove Village and Bensenville, got in his ear. But then, let's not forget that the person with "honey on his lips and murder in his heart" who first intoxicated Jackson with Peotone, was none other than Henry Hyde, one of the most reactionary pro-business, anti-citizen operatives, ever to hail from Illinois!

SOC, in their desperation to stop O'Hare expansion had used the tactic of "feigned concern" for their Southside brothers and sisters and would try to dump a mega-airport on us, in hopes it would somehow prevent the expansion of O'Hare. They wanted it more than both ways. They wanted the economic prosperity that went with their proximity to O'Hare (explaining why they have \$3 million to menace Eastern Will County with) yet were aghast of the noise, pollution and congestion living near a major airport also comes with. They thought they could insult our intelligence by complaining about O'Hare up north but saying how great an airport would be down south! This, mind you, without any hint of a willing airline or any means of funding for any of it! It was and has always been a shell game performed with smoke, mirrors and bombast. Of course they had "experts" and charts and wildly cooked up "studies" paid for through the noses of Illinois taxpayers. The Peotone Airport has spent roughly \$100 million and all they to show for it is about 1,600 expropriated acres and a ton of broadbased, statewide resentment.

Under the corrupt, yet adept at subterfuge, regime of George Ryan, a vicious concept known as "landbanking" was implemented without the consent of anybody except a roomful of bubbleheads in Springfield, swept away by the money being tossed around, including to them as part of George Ryan's "Illinois First" splurge.

So, slowly for the last two or three years, this menace from the state, (landbanking) through IDOT who hired a company experienced at this type of vulgar coercion of citizens, Hansen, has been harassing certain citizens who happen to live in the "footprint."

Of course, there are two "footprints" one small and one large - very large! Almost 24,000 acres - 37 square miles - which is three times the size of O'Hare! This land seizure of course, is the ultimate

airport on the Ogallala farm! It's a holy crusade with churches clamoring away for it and many believers, after years of incessant, taxpayer paid for propaganda. Most of the papers also buy it and hawk it. It has a stranglehold on the thinking when it comes to "development," down this way. Suffice to say, this beautiful, pristine land is the last piece within an hour of the loop that hasn't been "Napervilleized" or "Orlandized." So, you take a guess as to why we are so under siege! O'Hare has nothing to do with Iraq, either!

Park Forest, in particular, has gone the extra step to demonstrate themselves to be environmentally responsible and aware and put on a nice Earthday every year. They are progressive, tolerant and respectful of others. So, this is stirring up serious resentment among many southside townspeople, not just the folks in Crete, Peotone, Monee and Beecher. It's the mayor, John Ostenburg, who has had the gall to speak for his town. He's also trying to get the trustees to speak with the village attorney (to get "sold" on this scheme) individually and not as a group, even though this will cost the village more. Good 'ol Democracy, eh, John? Your credibility as an "environmentalist" and good neighbor, have plunged into the toilet!

Many groups oppose the Peotone Airport for many very good reasons. It's a huge taxpayer money pit waste boondoggle project that has already squandered \$100 million. It is an assault on longstanding, viable forming communities and neighborhoods. It's a serious ecological threat to the air, water and soil for a huge area and would ruin the Konkokee River, if ever forcibly built and somehow launched. It's a "blind land trust" insider landgrab. As an airport project it is unneeded and unwanted by the airline industry. It has no land other than what is forcibly taken from Illinois citizens. Mostly, it's a never-ending assault on the citizens by the state government and their campaign funders. It's another in a wave of greed-fueled assaults on Americans by business and government.

We will rally and hold a press conference at the State of Illinois building in Chicago on Friday, October 10th at 11 am. We'll present hundreds of petitions from citizens throughout a wide area that call upon the governor to show the same courtesy he showed to the people of Hopkin's Park, menaced by the women's prison. Pull the plug on this project, stop landbanking, save a ton of tax money that would otherwise be wasted on this mess, and allow us to begin to normalize our lives out here. We deserve a legitimate decision!

I see things begin to accelerate about this social sore. Jackson will keep pushing, as will Will County and others. Citizens will also band together to protect and struggle with the people so menaced out here. It will be interesting to see if Blagojevich will come to Peotone and genuinely try to resolve this huge problem. Only Glenn Poshard and Al Salvati have had the guts to meet with the people of Peotone.

Stop Landbanking! Release the Peotone Hostages!!



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from under them by Bonnema (who exempted himself from being obligated by the subdivisions covenant) and sold all of the vacant lots he still owned to the state, now can't get the state to buy their land and homes. New buyers drawn out there by the beautiful homes and livability out here won't commit because of the never-ending threat of the airport. It's a lowdown, dirty psychological war.

Other people, whether "hardship" cases or not in and around the "footprint" are having a lot of trouble buying and selling, deciding if an addition is prudent or whatever. Still others are being harassed by IDOT agents, surveyors, Hensen's people, lawyers and so on to sell to the state! The land already bought by IDOT is off our meager tax rolls because the state does not tax itself - just us! In fact, the state forces us to give them all kinds of taxes and in this case, is using that tax money to menace us out of our own homes and farms!

This latest scheme by the Jackson forces is particularly mean-spirited, yet no one seems to notice! Let me explain. He's gotten the two O'Hare towns to spearhead the hiring of international conglomerates to study (and push for) a "privatized" airport.

Incredibly, it is to be believed that the funding for this will come from bonds sold by an "authority" that will guarantee the bonds with future earnings of the airport. This, with no interested airlines not to mention a dearth of any kinds of necessary infrastructure. Keep in mind, Gary Airport is a half an hour from the loop with major expressways and rail lines, yet they can't even get any real business and Chicago supports Gary! The only way bonds are sold is to assure the buyers that future tax dollars will pay them back!

Doing a little research will show how LCOR invested but a minuscule amount of money in the Kennedy terminal - most all of it was tax money! They went way over budget and wildly over-estimated projected passengers and this was before September 11th! They're like TAMS who will indeed say what you want, complete with fancy charts, as long as you keep tunnelling them money. Bensenville and Elk Grove Village promised to be so gracious as to "pull out" of this "authority" when it can recover its investment - with interest. They sure do care for our welfare, eh?

All this makes for an interesting tale of hubris and suspension of reason, but now it turns nasty. Jackson has talked sister communities around Eastern Will County, namely University Park and Park Forest as "partners." South Holland, which is closer to Midway and Gary than Peotone, has also joined the circling vultures. They are imbued with such arrogance and lack of morality as to think they can decide what happens to someone else's land and the families that live on that land, as if they didn't even exist, as if we were soy beans or something! The Peotone Airport is like a cult, complete with trespassers Father Dubl and flock "praying" for an

goal of this poorly disguised (as a necessary airport that will be capable of performing miracles!) Jackson expects us to truly believe that a one-runway airport can be built quickly and that it will somehow prove itself economically productive enough - as a functioning airport - to pay back bondholders reasonably soon!

This strikes me as beyond odd and more like a free floating through fantasyland! The only two airlines who have shown any serious (written) interest in Peotone are Southwest and ATA. In their Midway contracts, it stipulates that if Peotone is built, they can up and leave - not to Peotone, folks, but to Milwaukee!

In his campaign literature, Jesse Junior still touts the magical figure of 236,000 jobs that "Peotone" will create. September 11th has indeed happened, as has a major depression, U.S. involvement in overseas warfare, the disappearance of the federal surplus and massive deficits in every state. Clearly, it's time to "cut the fat" from the state budget, which Governor Blagojevich has made an attempt to address. He and Daley finalized the O'Hare expansion deal, which the city and the airlines working out of O'Hare will help fund.

He also "pulled the plug" on the women's prison that George Ryan had orchestrated as "economic development" for the poor farming community in Hopkin's Park, in Kankakee County. These people do want genuine economic development such as a community center, a playground, laundromat, gas station, grocery store, basic infrastructure and so on. Thinking that they would accept having their sisters and cousins, mainly from the city living in their community in cages and that the state was doing them a "favor" was not just racist, but obscene and immoral to me. Nonetheless, Jesse Jackson Senior came down there and advised them to make the most of it, for which he was justifiably booed.

Of course, although Mr. Blagojevich has been quite vocal lately about political "ethics," he's been oblivious to the huge piles of taxpayer cash that people like Emil Jones, Michael Madigan, and Lee Daniels have at their disposal. He's made a big move on Maryville (as if those other places are any better) yet has kept either quiet or very vague regarding the fate of the citizens of "Peotone."

While George Ryan tunnelled \$15 million per year the last four years for "landbanking" Blago only authorized \$5 million. The state now owns something like 1,600 acres and is pressuring homeowners for more all the time. Not all of this is in Jackson's "starter" airport footprint of 4,200 acres though. It's a patchwork of real estate devastation and demolished homes. It's really messed up the real estate market. Property values are greatly depressed in general because of the threat of this airport and have been for many years. This area is not even in Jackson's district! It's landrustling (a crime!)

Some folks in upscale Heatherbrook, who had the rug pulled out

WHEN REVITALIZING INDUSTRY TAKES PRECEDENCE  
OVER HUMAN WELFARE -  
TYRANTS DON'T CONSULT THE AFFECTED  
COMMUNITIES'.

LIKE IT OR NOT . . .  
WE'LL JUST "RESETTLE" THEM  
BUT WE WILL HAVE THIS  
AIRPORT !

